



CONGRESSMAN
**HENRY
HYDE**



SPECIAL REPORT TO THE SIXTH DISTRICT

**“ONE NATION, UNDER GOD,
INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY
AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.”**

Dear Fellow Americans:



Now more than ever we must come together as a nation to rid the world of terrorism.

Our country was attacked Sept. 11 by fanatics who wanted to demoralize the American people, destabilize American democracy and wreak havoc on our economy.

This war in which we are now engaged — and this *is* war, not crime in the ordinary sense of the term — is a war for civilization itself. It pits the defenders of human rights, the defenders of democracy, against those who hate America precisely because she is the greatest contemporary embodiment, of human rights and democracy.

We were a target Sept. 11 because of what we stand for, because of who we are. In defending ourselves, we are defending everyone in the world who believes in the rights of mankind — everyone who believes that democracy, not mass violence, is the way to conduct public affairs.

President Bush has prudently asked for the public’s patience as the United States and its allies build a coalition to strike at the heart of this evil. As I write this letter, tens of thousands of our nation’s men and women — whether they be airmen, sailors, soldiers, policemen, firemen or border patrol agents — are putting themselves in harm’s way to defend our way of life. I hope you will include them in your prayers, as I have done.

In this Washington Report, I outline how your government is responding to the Sept. 11 terrorist attack. I hope you will find this information useful, and as always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help you or your family with a federal matter.

Sincerely,

Henry Hyde

The World Stands With Us
*United States Builds Strong
International Coalition*

The United States continues to build a strong international coalition in support of our actions against Osama bin Laden and others responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks.

The coalition, which is similar to the one established by the United States during the Gulf War, demonstrates that this war is not a war of East versus West, or Muslim versus Christian. This is a war against terrorists and their supporters.

Virtually every government around the world has expressed its support for the United States. Some countries like India have offered their assistance without being asked. Even countries such as Mexico, which have historically been critical of U.S. foreign policy, have actively demonstrated their support for the United States.

The coalition already includes traditional military allies such as Britain, Canada and Australia. In addition, Muslim allies such as Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Qatar have stepped forward to assist us, providing intelligence on terrorist networks or allowing the United States to use their airspace or military bases. Even Russia and some of its former republics have offered to help.

Our NATO allies also are standing shoulder to shoulder with us. NATO, for the first time in history, invoked Article V of its founding treaty, declaring that the Sept. 11 attack was an attack on all NATO members, not just the United States. Similarly, Australia invoked a clause in a 50-year-old treaty, declaring that the Sept. 11 attack was an attack on Australia as well.

In short, the world stands with us in our fight against international terrorism.

WASHINGTON D.C. TOURS



In light of the Sept. 11 attack, tours of the White House, the Capitol, the Pentagon and the FBI Building are consistently under review. For information about closures, please call my district office (630) 832-5950.

CONGRESSIONAL MAIL

Thank you for your patience during the recent mail stoppage. Our district office in Addison, Ill., is now receiving mail. However, mail is still not being delivered to our Washington D.C. office because of security precautions. Constituents are encouraged to contact Mr. Hyde via e-mail, fax or by calling either of his offices. Contact points for Mr. Hyde are listed to the left.

How to contact Congressman Hyde . . .

Illinois

50 East Oak Street, Suite 2000
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Constituents can e-mail Mr. Hyde through his Web Site:
www.house.gov/hyde/contacting.htm

Rep. Hyde Answers Your Questions About Terrorism

Q: How common are terrorist attacks?

A: There were 423 international terrorist attacks last year, an increase of 8 percent from the 392 attacks recorded in 1999. The attacks killed 405 people and wounded 791. Nineteen of those killed were Americans, 17 of them sailors aboard the USS Cole, which was attacked last year in the Yemeni port of Aden.

Q: I keep hearing a lot about the terrorist group al-Qaeda. What is it and how is it connected to Osama bin Laden?

A: Bin Laden established the group in the late 1980s to bring together those who fought in Afghanistan against the Soviet invasion. Today, al-Qaeda is working with other Islamic extremist groups to overthrow regimes it deems "non-Islamic" and to expel Westerners and non-Muslims from Muslim countries. The group has declared a "jihad" or holy war against Western countries, particularly the United States, claiming that it is the duty of all Muslims to kill U.S. citizens and their allies everywhere.

Bin Laden has terrorist cells in more than 60 countries, with most of the training camps residing in Afghanistan. Al-Qaeda is accused of multiple terrorism attacks, including: the killing of U.S. service members in Somalia in 1993; the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II in Manila in 1994; the bombings of U.S. embassies in Africa in 1998; and the attack on the USS Cole in 2000. Bin Laden also is suspected of being the mastermind of the two attacks on the World Trade

Center, the most recent occurring on Sept. 11.

Q: What is bioterrorism and what can I do to protect my family from a chemical or germ attack?

A: Bioterrorism presents unique challenges because it differs dramatically from other forms of terrorism or national emergencies. While explosions or chemical attacks cause immediate and visible casualties, an intentional release of a biological virus or disease such as anthrax or smallpox could continue to spread for days, if not weeks, potentially culminating in a major epidemic. I realize that's a frightening scenario, but truthfully, there's little you can do to prevent that from happening.

Some of you might be rushing out to buy gas masks, but the truth is, these masks won't always keep you safe because many of these biological agents are spread by touch or by close contact with an infected person. Vaccines for some of these diseases are available, but I'm not sure it is prudent at this time to vaccinate the entire American population. For example, the anthrax vaccine has been controversial among U.S. service members because of reported side effects.

In August, President Bush put the Federal Emergency Management Agency in charge of coordinating federal response efforts to chemical, biological and nuclear terrorism. In the event of an attack, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for detecting diseases, investigating

outbreaks and providing stockpiled drugs and emergency supplies in large amounts within 12 hours.

On a local level, the state of Illinois has been working with federal officials to develop a response plan to a biological or chemical attack. The Illinois Department of Health, along with the Illinois Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Task Force, is charged with ensuring the state has a coordinated response plan for such an attack. Last February, the state completed an extensive preparedness review of health departments and hospitals. Significant upgrades to the state information networks and medical laboratories are in the works.

Briefs

Hyde Named to Drug Task Force

House Speaker Dennis Hastert named Rep. Henry Hyde to a special task force dedicated to controlling the supply and transit of illegal drugs abroad, as well as limiting drug use here at home. The formation of the Speaker's Task Force for a Drug Free America is timely given the nation's current war on international terrorism, which is often funded by terrorist networks in places like Columbia and Afghanistan — places where much of the world's illegal drugs are produced.

Loans for Illinois Military Reservists

The state of Illinois is offering short-term loans for military reservists called up for active duty as part of the nation's war on terrorism. Reservists are eligible for loans up to \$10,000 for up to six months. For more information, call (217) 557-6436 or toll free (866) 458-7327



Rep. Henry Hyde, left, talks with President Bush aboard Air Force One. Other lawmakers traveled with the President to Chicago on Sept. 27, where he unveiled his plan to improve aviation security. The President's plan includes expanding the federal air marshal program and an expanded federal role in airport security.

CONGRESSMAN
**HENRY
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*Special Report
to the Sixth
District*



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6th Congressional District
Illinois